

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Online data collection and data processing has significantly improved productivity in a variety of applications. For example, many important business processes have been automated using business application software. These applications require data in order to function. Such data may be collected in an automated fashion from other data processing systems, but much data must still be collected manually from individual users. In an online data collection environment, users are connected, directly or through a network, to a data processing system, which collects and processes the data entered by the users. Such a system requires online connection and interaction with the data processing system, which limits the portability and flexibility of the system. A need arises for a data collection system that does not require online connection and interaction with the data processing system.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

An exemplary block diagram of a data processing system 200, shown in Fig. 1, is shown in Fig. 2. System 200 is typically a programmed general-purpose computer system, such as a personal computer, workstation, server system, and minicomputer or mainframe computer. System 200 includes one or more processors (CPUs) 202A-[[3]]202N, input/output circuitry 204, network adapter 206, and memory 208. CPUs 202A-[[3]]202N execute program instructions in order to carry out the functions of the present invention. Typically, CPUs 202A-202N are one or more microprocessors, such as an INTEL PENTIUM® processor. Fig. 2 illustrates an embodiment in which system 200 is implemented as a single multi-processor computer system, in which multiple

processors 202A-202N share system resources, such as memory 208, input/output circuitry 204, and network adapter 206. However, the present invention also contemplates embodiments in which system 200 is implemented as a plurality of networked computer systems, which may be single-processor computer systems, multi-processor computer systems, or a mix thereof.